

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A life-and-death monitoring method of monitoring[[,]] ~~by any of~~ a plurality of host computers connected to a common network, said method ~~a life-or-death state of other host computer, comprising the steps of:~~

~~a step of~~ transmitting a life-and-death monitoring packet comprising ~~including~~ a table having a management order of a host computer to be managed, and an address and a check flag of said host computer from a management host computer to any of said host computers to be managed;

when a step, by said host computer to be managed ~~which~~ has received said life-and-death monitoring packet, ~~of~~ checking a check flag of said table in which the address of said host computer is registered; and

when a step, by said host computer to be managed ~~which~~ has completed said checking, ~~of~~ transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order of said table.

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2. (*Currently Amended*) The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth in claim 1, wherein when said host computer to be managed has ~~which have~~ completed said checking and, prior to transmitting ~~will transmit~~ said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order, recognizes in advance that said subsequent host computer to be managed ~~which comes next in the management order~~ is incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to a further subsequently registered communicable host computer to be managed without sending the packet to the incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

3. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth in claim 2, wherein when there exist a plurality of said host computers to be managed which are recognized as incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to said host computer to be managed which comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality of incommunicable host computers to be managed in question.

4. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at the end of the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet, an address of said management host computer is registered, so that said life-and-death monitoring packet which has been transmitted in said management order is lastly transmitted to said management host computer.

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5. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said management host computer having received said life-and-death monitoring packet generates said life-and-death monitoring packet including said table targeted at said host computer to be managed whose check flag of said table is not checked and transmits said packet to said host computer to be managed whose flag is not checked.

6. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring method according to claim 1, wherein when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not returned to said management host computer, a new life-and-death monitoring packet is generated by changing the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet and transmitted.

7. (*Currently Amended*) A life-and-death monitoring system for ~~at~~ a plurality of host computers connected to a common network, comprising:

a host computer to be managed and a management host computer for checking a life-or-death state of the host computer to be managed in question, wherein

said management host computer transmits a life-and-death monitoring packet comprising ~~including~~ a table having a management order of said host computer to be managed, and an

address and a check flag of said host computer to any of said host computers to be managed, and

said host computer to be managed ~~that which~~ that has received said life-and-death monitoring packet checks a check flag of said table in which the address of said host computer is registered and said host computer to be managed ~~that which~~ that has completed said checking transmits said

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life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order of said table.

8. (*Currently Amended*) The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth in claim 7, wherein when said host computer to be managed has ~~which have~~ completed said checking and, prior to transmitting ~~will transmit~~ said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order, recognizes in advance that said subsequent host computer to be managed ~~which comes next in the management order is~~ incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to a further subsequently registered communicable host computer to be managed without sending the packet to the incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

9. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth in claim 8, wherein when there exist a plurality of said host computers to be managed which are recognized as incommunicable, said life-and-death monitoring packet is transmitted to said host computer to be managed which comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality of incommunicable host computers to be managed in question.

10. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth in claim 7, wherein at the end of the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet, an address of said management host computer is registered, so that said life-and-death monitoring packet which has been transmitted in said management order is lastly transmitted to said management host computer.

11. (*Currently Amended*) The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth in claim 7, wherein said management host computer having received said life-and-death monitoring packet generates said life-and-death monitoring packet comprising ~~including~~ said table targeted at said host computer to be managed whose check flag of said table is not checked and transmits said packet to said host computer to be managed whose flag is not checked.

12. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring system as set forth in claim 7, wherein when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not returned to said management host computer, said management host computer generates a new life-and-death monitoring packet by changing the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet and transmits the generated packet.

13. (*Currently Amended*) A life-and-death monitoring computer program for use in monitoring~~[[,]]~~ ~~by any of~~ a plurality of host computers connected to a common network, said computer program ~~a life or death state of other host computer~~, comprising the functions of:

transmitting a life-and-death monitoring packet comprising ~~including~~ a table having a management order of a host computer to be managed, and an address and a check flag of said host computer from a management host computer to any of said host computers to be managed,

at said host computer to be managed that ~~which~~ has received said life-and-death monitoring packet, checking a check flag of said table in which the address of said host computer is registered, and

at said host computer to be managed that ~~which~~ has completed said checking, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order of said table.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 13, further comprising the function of, when said host computer to be managed has ~~which~~ ~~have~~ completed said checking, and prior to transmitting ~~will transmit~~ said life-and-death monitoring packet to a subsequent host computer to be managed according to said management order, recognizes in advance that said subsequent host computer to be managed ~~which comes next in the management order~~ is incommunicable, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to a further subsequently registered communicable host computer to be managed without sending the packet to the incommunicable host computer to be managed in question.

15. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 14, further comprising the function of, when there exist a plurality of said host computers to be managed which are recognized as incommunicable, transmitting said life-and-death monitoring packet to said host computer to be managed which comes further subsequently in the order to the plurality of incommunicable host computers to be managed in question.

16. (*Currently Amended*) The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 13, wherein said management host computer having received said life-and-death monitoring packet has the function of generating said life-and-death monitoring packet comprising ~~including~~ said table targeted at said host computer to be managed whose check flag of said table is not checked and transmitting said packet to said host computer to be managed whose flag is not checked.

17. (*Original*) The life-and-death monitoring computer program as set forth in claim 13, further comprising the function of, when said life-and-death monitoring packet is not returned to said management host computer, generating a new life-and-death monitoring packet by changing the management order of said table in said life-and-death monitoring packet and transmitting the generated packet.